



# new Bernal Journal

February/March '96

Serving the Bernal Heights Neighborhood of San Francisco

Volume 33 • Number 2 •

## "IT'S BEEN A GOOD LIFE"

An Interview with  
Bernal Heights Sculptor  
C.B. Johnson

by Nic Griffin

"He's a nationally known sculptor, and he lives in the oldest house in Bernal Heights," my friend told me excitedly. "Why don't you interview him for the *Bernal Journal*?" My curiosity was piqued, and other than the fact that I'd never interviewed anyone in my life, I could think of no reason not to. So I went my way, over the hills of Bernal — in my pack a list of questions, and a tape recorder which didn't function. On my second visit, new tape recorder in hand, I was finally successful!

Prize-winning sculptor C.B. Johnson was born in central Georgia in 1914, "the year of the Great War." At 82, he still sculpts, despite a lengthy battle with several debilitating illnesses. He and his wife Louise live in a beautiful old Victorian on Prospect Street, where I spoke to him about art, life, and Chicago in the 30's.

Who were some inspirational artists for you?

C.B.: Henry Moore, the English Sculptor was probably the most influential. Michelangelo, Rodin, were wonderful sculptors and I always felt that these men did beautiful sculpture. Henry Moore was the revolutionary as far as the sculptors go. He's the one who made a great deal out of shapes and holes and I was very impressed by that, and I say I was not influenced by the classics, but of course I was. However, I did not study ever in the classical sense. After the war I went to Hollywood Center School, which was an art school, on the G.I. Bill, and there we didn't do classics, we tried to be much more modern.

What year was that when you went to Hollywood Center school?

C.B.: That would be in 1946 after World War II.

So at that time you weren't actually doing sculptures?

C.B.: No, it was twenty years after that I was doing full time sculptures. When I left the south, I was one of the depression people, almost all of the young men who had any kind of ambition left the south. I had no job at the time because I had no skills ... except football. I went to Chicago ... around 1934-35 there was ... a World's Fair which was tremendous. Just mind blowing to a twenty year old out of the south. It was a brand new world and at that time I did become interested in art and music. I thought perhaps at the time I'd be a singer. Good voice, but

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## ALL INVITED TO NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER'S 8TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CONGRESS

Each year the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center hosts a community gathering designed to determine the neighborhood's priorities, and elect the organization's board of directors, among other things. The following is an invitation to the community from the Center's leadership, Helen Helfer and Mauricio Vela:

Our annual congress is a key opportunity for neighbors all over the Hill become familiar with the neighborhood center's successful programs and activities, and to actively participate in developing our 1996 community agenda.

Congress is also an opportunity to hear about the great accomplishments we as a neighborhood have achieved in 1995, to launch our annual Friends and Membership campaigns, and to vote for neighbors running for our board of directors.

Last year the BHNC, with the help of many active volunteers, was successful in:

- Getting the stalled 1986 Bernal gymnasium renovation project underway (should be completed in May of 1996)
- Acquiring of one of ten national Administration On Aging grants to help serve at-risk Bernal seniors
- Organizing a Bernal Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT) program for 45 Bernal residents
- Actively supporting Bernal

youth participation in the debate over the proposed curfew ordinances

- Successfully returning our 7th Annual Fiesta street fair to Cortland Avenue
- Acquiring \$150,000 to renovate

the play structure at the Bernal Playground

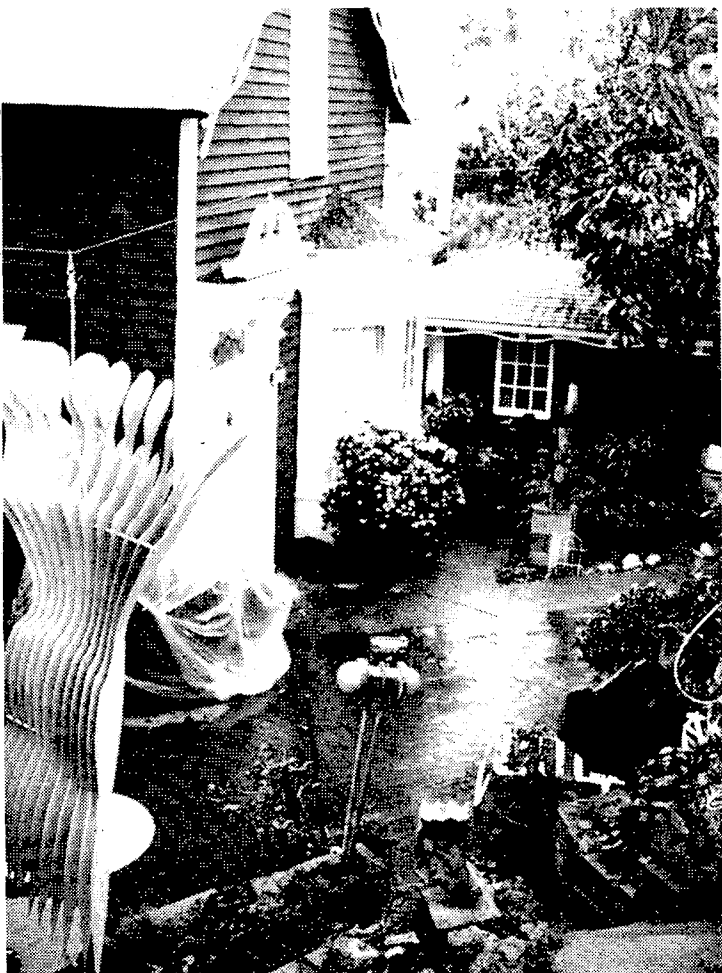
- Working with Saint Anthony's and Saint Kevin's Churches to keep Project Open Hand in Bernal Heights and staffed by Bernal volunteers

This year we have invited our new Mayor and

newly appointed Supervisor Michael Yaki to attend the congress, share their vision of the city and hear Bernal residents' concerns and recommendations for an even better, stronger, and safer San Francisco.

In an active effort to touch base with more neighbors and increase our membership, we will again hold house meetings around the hill before the congress, to talk about BHNC activities, concerns

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The steel sculpture, "Ladies" stands in front of C.B. Johnson's Bernal home.

## Arcing Power Lines Light the Night, Send Shocking Surges

by Sharon Lerman

The December storm that began this year's rain season felled trees and transmitter towers throughout the Bay Area — and created a fireworks display for some residents of northwest Bernal Heights.

On Tuesday, December 12 at about 3 a.m., a primary power line arced and snapped, sending a 12,000 volt power surge into the homes of many Winfield Avenue residents, according to David Dicha, a spokesperson for Pacific Gas and Electric.

"It was like the Aurora Borealis," said Ron Acton, a tenant in an apartment building at 74 Winfield Ave. The power surge damaged major appliances in Acton's, and many of his neighbor's apartments. "The upstairs neighbors, their entire home entertainment center — wiped out! Up and down the street, people lost their TVs VCRs, Computers, Microwaves — you name it," exclaimed Acton.

"[The line] arced right outside my bedroom window," said David Curley, who lives at 78 Winfield Ave. "I saw sparks and a blue flame running along the line."

Fifteen of Curley's appliances were damaged in the surge. He estimated that repairs would cost

about \$3,000, which he hopes to reclaim in a suit against the utility company.

Dicha said the broken power line was caused by nature, not by faulty equipment. "It was not a hardware problem, I can assure you of that," he said.

Acton disagreed, citing the extraordinary amount of power discharged by the accident. "When you get that much voltage loose, it'll go everywhere — it'll go through wood! Never, ever, should that much voltage come into a home."

"At what point will PG&E take responsibility? This is like the Corvair," noted Acton, making reference to the infamous Chevrolet model about which was written the book *Unsafe At Any Speed*.

Acton has also made a claim against PG&E for losses incurred during the incident, which included damage to such heavy-duty equipment as his refrigerator and furnace, as well as electronics.

Storm damage to a primary power line is an unusual occurrence, according to Dicha. More often, secondary lines are damaged, which create a 220 volt power surges. At 12 kilovolts, the Winfield Ave. surge had 50 times more power.

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## Neighborhood Shopping Guide & Classifieds: Pages 8 & 9

**'CONGRESS' FROM PAGE 1**

and ideas regarding youth, senior, community organizing, housing, and public safety issues. We will also plan exciting fundraising events to help us continue to serve the Bernal Heights community in these difficult times.

If you would like to host or attend a housing meeting in your part of Bernal, please call us at the Neighborhood Center, 206-2140.

We look forward to seeing you March 9th!

## Celebrating Black History Month

### Perspectives of a Bernal Native in Our Nation's Capital

by Tuhin Roy

The morning of the Million Man March I listened to callers on local talk radio. Black women riding the Metro to work had been moved to tears. They were calling to describe their elation at the spirit and enthusiasm of the black men they

saw on their way to the march. Their voices wavered with pain, surprise and joy. I knew something special was happening.

Several hours later, I left my office [at Human Rights Watch] near the White House and walked to the mall with two black women colleagues. I felt like Alice in Wonderland. In stark contrast to the occasionally accurate stereotypes of ever impending violence among African-American men, there was a sense of total peace at the march.

Having lost several childhood friends to violent drug related deaths, and others to prison, I often wondered why the issue of violence had not been forthrightly addressed in the African-American community — why no leader had stood up to demand that blacks control those aspects of their social lives over which they could exercise power. The march did this for the first time in my memory. And by doing so in such an impressive fashion, I believe it planted the seeds of renewal for many African-Americans. It sent participants away with a heightened sense of possibilities; the possibility of rejecting violence; the possibility of demanding that African-Americans take responsibility for aspects of their communal life if society at large fails to; and, most importantly, the possibility of mobilizing politically to demand the larger society once and for all atone for the social, economic and cultural violence done to African-Americans.

While ending violence in the African-American community is a pre-requisite to effectively demanding social justice, it was the march's emphasis on political mobilization through voter registration that may have the most immediate effect for African-Americans and other U.S. minorities. The Christian right-wing has demonstrated that any relatively small but highly organized segment of society can exert significant influence over the political process. During the next decade, a similarly energized and organized movement of African-Americans will be necessary to protect the modest gains made over the last thirty years and to demand a more equitable piece of the pie. Without such a movement, African-Americans will be further marginalized in a country where the "winner

*"The Christian right-wing has demonstrated that any relatively small but highly organized segment of society can exert significant influence over the political process"*

takes all," but they are often not permitted to compete.

Judging by the number of video cameras at the march, the messages of peace, unity and mobilization communicated there have by now reached a wide audience in the black community. According to reports, those touched by the march are already translating their new found sense of possibility into action. Throughout the country, march participants are organizing voter registration drives, joining union activities, feeding the homeless, and forming groups to discuss the situation of Africans in America.

While these are promising developments, it is important to keep in mind the scope of the challenge. The march lit an as yet small flame that will need a great deal more nurturing before growing into a wild fire. African-Americans face a well organized, and at times seemingly omnipotent, racial spoils system. White America has the power of the police, courts, federal reserve bank, schools, and the culture-making machinery behind its system of oppression. Nonetheless, the democratic system still offers some opportunities for economically depressed African-Americans. The Million Man March was the most encouraging recent sign that African-Americans will succeed in slowing internecine violence and mobilizing politically for economic justice.

## New Bernal Journal

515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110 • (415) 206-2144

The New Bernal Journal is a bi-monthly neighborhood newspaper sponsored by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with community news, ideas, issues, and events that support the Center's mission: "To empower people in efforts to preserve the ethnic, cultural, and economic diversity of Bernal Heights and improve the economic condition of low and moderate income people in Bernal Heights." The New Bernal Journal is distributed door to door, free in Bernal Heights. Articles express the views of contributors and not necessarily those of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

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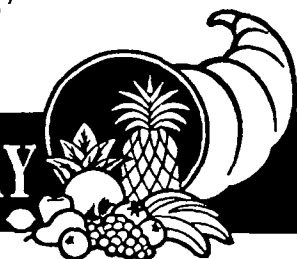
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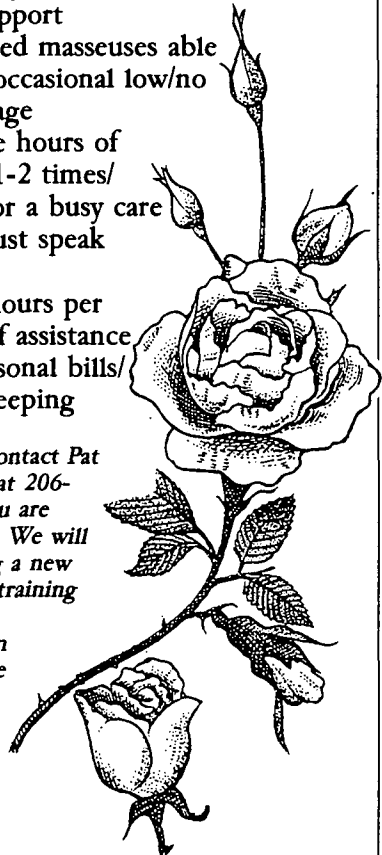


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Please contact Pat Lindstadt at 206-9177 if you are interested. We will be holding a new volunteer training on the 1st Saturday in March. We welcome your participation.

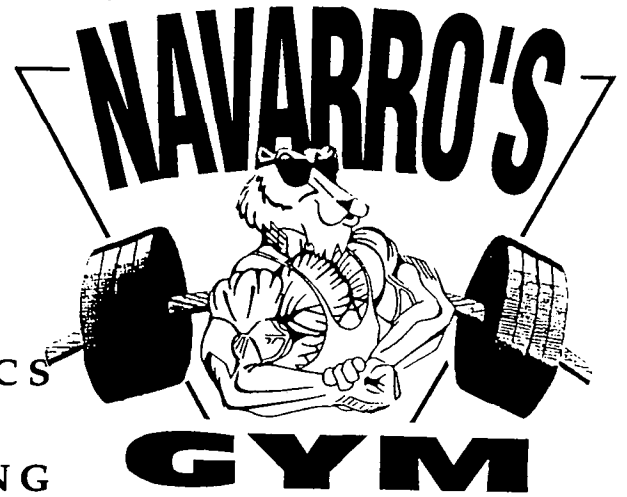


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**'INTERVIEW' FROM PAGE 1**  
no presence. You know that ability to perform. I didn't have it, but I was interested in it..

**Was that when you met your wife?**

C.B: Oh no, that was much later on. In about 1938 I went to Los Angeles. My older brother was there and I worked as an assistant carpenter. In 1939 or 38, I came here for the World's Fair. We went over in ferry boats and of course I was amazed and astounded — it was quite a fair. I began to get interested in sculpture although I did none myself. There was much sculpture and art in that fair. Everything was just tremendous. So having hit here I didn't want to leave, ever. At that time I was going to night schools for music, I met my wife at the Opera House. She was the local butterfly, extremely good high soprano voice and was used here and there as Madame Butterfly. Because she was Japanese. I didn't think much of the ending of Madame Butterfly so I changed it by marrying her. After that the war came in 1941.

**How did the war affect you?**

I volunteered for the war, spent four years ... I did end up a second lieutenant, didn't see much fighting. I was in supply mostly. Our daughter was born at that time. I was stationed at Seattle at Bremonton Navy Yard. In 1946

we went to LA. Had a bad time — there was no place to live no matter how much money you had. I used some of my GI benefits to go to this art school. We drew and we did sculpture. It was ten years before I got into my own sculpting which was when I was 40. I had worked for the Post Office for 10 years here in San Francisco. It was a good, safe, steady job. We bought a house. My wife had become a nurse and we were doing fine. It was then that I got a bug about sculpting. I began with rocks I found on the beach, found objects which was pretty hot in those days. I entered a couple of galleries to show my stuff and it happened that it was good, it was salable. Almost immediately I began to sell sculpture. My wife agreed that I should quit the post office ... and go into full



C.B. Johnson at his Bernal Home

time sculpture. I found, after I'd been sculpting for a while, there was not enough room. I wanted to work bigger and bigger. I was working in the basement under bad circumstances. Through a friend we found this place. It had the room and it had the location. I loved it immediately: saw it one day, bought it the next, much to my wife's dismay, but she learned to love it. I was as happy as I could be: room to work, succeeding, selling enough sculpture to live. I never became as famous as say Bufano or any of those guys but we had many one man shows in galleries in Los Angeles, Vancouver, Sac-

ramento and San Francisco.

**Do you have any works in permanent collections?**

C.B: The city owns one of my pieces which is a prize winning marble. I did several special shows for their annual art festival. One piece... was 35' tall. It was steel so it did not last. I did succeed in entering many private collections such as Firestone in Chicago and the Factor family in LA.

**Where does creating come from inside you? Is it magical, spiritual?**

C.B: Creation is magical. I've always been good with my hands ... plumbing, carpentry. After the little creation part, then the rest of it's hard work, to cut marble, to polish it. The creation is where the kicks are. I had a furnace out in the garage and I poured bronzes .. 5' high. The fun was in doing the pattern with styrofoam which is a more or less new method of casting. You cut something out of styrofoam, bury it in a sand box then when you pour the hot bronze on it the styrofoam burns out and leaves the bronze. I spent about 3 years in my so called Bronze Age. That was after my stone age. I had a wood age for not very long. That went on until about four years ago, I guess when my emphysema moved in on me, it slowed me up to practically a stop. I've adjusted my work to the point that I am doing small marbles. They are fun and they are good for me. However there were a few times this year when I couldn't even do that. I was out there yesterday for about half an hour.

**Really? In the workshop?**

C.B: Yup! It's good, it's won-

derful for me to work with my hands, even though I tire very quickly.

**Were you doing marble?**

C.B: Yes the little marble faces. That's all I can do now. I can't lift anything.

**Are those faces people you know?**

C.B: No. I got them from a big block of marble. I break them with a hammer and they would come out in little pieces. They generally had interesting shapes from the breakage. All I work on is faces that I saw in the fragments.

**What changes have you seen in Bernal Heights?**

C.B: Aah, Bernal Heights. We moved here 30 years ago, we were delighted to get this place because it was big, it had room around it. I was working large at that time and I mean big things. I had a crane on that lower flat, down where the greenhouse is. The neighbors were great. I had a little trouble with what's their name? The bad motorcycle bunch.

**Hell's Angels?**

C.B: Yes. They had the house next-door. They tore a hole in the wall and they'd take their bikes in the house. I'd be out there chopping on this marble and they'd hang over the fence and say, "What're you doing?" They thought it was great. All up and down the neighbors have always been great. I was kind of noisy at times: Bang, Bang, Bang. One guy called the city on me. So the inspector came out from the city, I wasn't here at the time, and he looked over the place and left me a note: "Great work! Keep at it."

**Do you know anything about**

**the history of this house?**

C.B: This house is said to be the oldest on this side of the hill. At one time it was a goat farm. Several artists have lived here over the years. It's well over a hundred years old. It's a very pleasant place and we've loved it. It has been added on to and re-done a couple of times so, although it is registered in the Historic Houses of San Francisco, it's not one of those ones you can't make any changes to.

**It's sitting on a sizable chunk of land, it seems**

C.B: You bet it is — there's almost four city lots here. There's room! Which is what I needed at the time we moved here.

**Any thoughts about the contemporary art scene?**

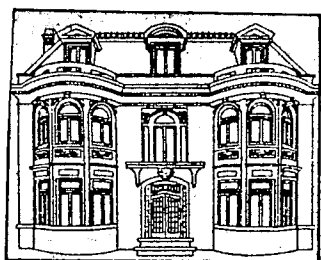
C.B: I love crazy things, always did. This guy that built the great fence in Marin County, remember him? Cristo. I thought that was wonderful. But there's an awful lot of nonsense in art. One fellow who died recently won the first prize at a prestigious show in town. It was a baby carriage, a stroller. They gave him first prize! Something nice and crazy like Cristo is fine.

**Do you have any reflections on the artist's life?**

C.B: You've got to have some luck to succeed in fine art. I just couldn't ask for anything better. I did exactly what I wanted to do I see people by the millions that are frustrated and bored with their jobs. I was lucky and I appreciate that. Whatever powers exist or don't exist, I would like nothing better than to continue until such a time as I can't. I've reached that a couple times where I can hardly walk. I'm 82! Things wear out. Actually I'm in pretty good shape. My doctor thinks so anyway. It's been a good life, a very good life.



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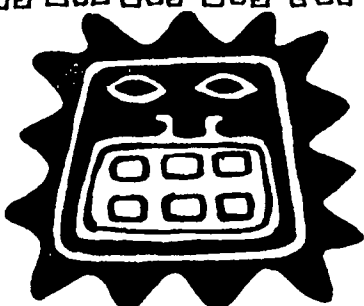
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# Down in the Dirt

Gardening Tips from  
Professional Gardener  
**Gary Burnhardt**

## Did We Blink and Miss Winter Again?

Spring's here already, yet it seems like fall never ended. The yellow blossoms of the Acacia trees (mimosa) have already begun, though many bougainvilleas are still flowering on from last summer. There are still autumn colored leaves on some Japanese maples, but the magnolias are starting in with their flamboyant, big blooms on bare branches.

Liquidambar are generally late

to drop, though our one doozie of a storm blew many of their leaves to kingdom come. The hardenbergios are glorious right now, and popping up more and more over the Hill. Some narcissi and grape hyacinths have been out for a while, even a few confused purple and white bearded iris here and there.

Yep, we're having another California non-winter. It was 89° in LA the other day, and a record 71° here. Curiously our rainfall is just a little below normal, though most of that fell in a two-day period.

One of the effects of this lack of chilling is a continuing thrip infestation on lots of our plants. If the leaves of your rhododendrons, fuchsias, ferns, epimedium, prunes, leptospermum, pieris, and lots of others are looking a stippled ghastly gray, it's probably thrips sucking out the chlorophyll. Look for them on the undersides of leaves, about

as big as a printed hyphen. Their colonies are very messy, with eggs, young and shiny droppings all about (spider mites aren't as dirty, and are much smaller. Their favorites included choisija (Mexi-

either thrips or spider mites (or aphids) is to blast off both sides of the foliage with a hard jet of water. Do this every few days for a few weeks, then every other week or so as a precaution, especially dur-

more it seems we'd better acknowledge our state's very dry nature. If you're having to water your outdoor potted plants this time of year, and you should be checking them as it's been so warm and dry, you might want to think twice about putting in some of those gorgeous, thirsty plants, like hydrangeas and azaleas, in the spring. Although we're assured enough water this summer, thanks to last winter's deluges, another lean winter next year would mean a return to yellow being mellow and those mean little showers. There are lots of great plants that love our natural conditions, and so

are generally a lot easier for us to grow: things like grevilleas, euphorbias, rockrose, Australian fuchsia, bougainvillea, some bulbs like watsonia and baboon flower (babiana). Basically these are plants from climates similar to ours in Australia, South Africa, the Mediterranean, and Chile. Many nurseries are starting to carry at least a few of them.

If you have ornamental grasses starting to show new growth (the 'cool season grasses'), cut them back now. If it does get wet, I'd hold off mulching and planting till the soil dries out. But right now it looks like it's going to be a long, drawn-out (and probably very beautiful) spring!

*Note: This is my first stab at a gardening column, and feedback or gardening questions c/o The New Bernal Journal are most welcome!*

*Although we're assured enough water this summer, thanks to last winter's deluges, another lean winter next year would mean a return to yellow being mellow, and those mean little showers.*

can mock orange), citrus, lots of conifers, some bulbs such as montbretia, etc.

It's funny, some pests attack just one specific host (plant pests, that is, not human ones), for example gray aphids on cabbages. Others, including mealyongs, some weevils, and the ubiquitous omnivorous looper (a common caterpillar who loves ivy and roses especially) are generalists within certain limits. In a really bad infestation the population can get so large they'll start going after all sorts of things they'd otherwise leave alone. In spite of it being February, the loopers are still chomping around, possibly even skeletonizing your ivy leaves at this moment! I usually just hand pick off the worst leaves and pray for birds, but there's a very organic spray called Bacillus thuringiensis, or "B.t." The easier and most organic way to get rid of

ing dry weather. (It's nice for your plants too: use a trigger nozzle, but just hard enough not to damage softer leaves). Both of these pests love dry shade, and the repeated hoseings not only wash off the eggs but generally seem to discourage them.

Some of the fruit trees in the valley are already beginning to bloom and farmers are worried about the lack of winter chill. Winter chill is a specific horticultural term indicating a determined length of time below 45° F. For example, certain varieties of apples need at least 350 hours of chill to set fruit (a little over two weeks). This is probably the primary reason we can't grow tree fruits very well, and also why things like lilacs, peonies and bearded iris don't perform as well here as they do back east.

Was last winter just a welcome respite from drought? More and

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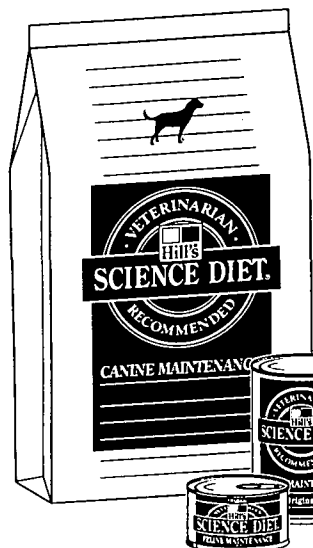
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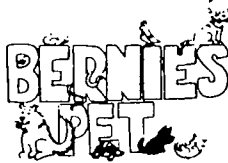
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## Immigration & Antiques

by Randall Caudle, Attorney At Law

Imagine that you came up with a great idea for a cafe. You think that a combination cafe / newsstand / antique store would do great business. You believe people sitting in the cafe's antique chairs, drinking coffee out of antique coffee cups, and reading the newspaper of their choice would decide to buy some of your antiques so they could replicate the same sensory experience in their home. You open your business in France because you believe your antique restoration work will be appreciated more there than here in the United States.

Several years later, you are working hard and your business is going well. You are paying taxes, contributing to the economy by buying French goods and services, and living your life as a decent and productive human being. Then one day as you are serving coffee to a customer, eight French government agents come into your business, arrest you, and accuse you of being in France illegally. They put you in a holding cell with hundreds of other detained foreigners and never tell you any of your rights, including your right to an attorney and your right to remain silent. Several months later, you are put on a plane back to the United States without any of your possessions and without any compensation for your business.

Does this story sound like a creative piece of fiction? Substitute the United States for France and this story happens constantly to undocumented immigrants in this country. The majority of undocumented immigrants in the United States work very hard, pay taxes, and do not receive any government benefits. Despite the reality, immigrants (both undocumented and legal) are a convenient scapegoat for all the problems caused by years of bad policy decisions made by politicians.

Most of you are well aware of Proposition 187. Proposition 187 has recently been declared unconstitutional by a federal judge. The reason that Proposition 187 is unconstitutional is that the U.S. Constitution expressly delineates Immigration as an area of law and policy reserved exclusively for the Federal government. California has no power to implement state immigration law.

Now here is the scary part. Congress is trying to pass even more restrictive immigration laws than Proposition 187 and they have the power to do so under the U.S. Constitution. If the current pending federal immigration bills become law, they will affect undocumented immigrants, legal immigrants, and U.S. citizens throughout the country.

U.S. citizens can currently petition to legally immigrate immediate relatives into the United States. Even though the process is excruciatingly slow to begin with, Congress wants to limit legal immigration of relatives in both amount and relationship to the U.S. citizen petitioner. If Senator Alan Simpson's bill (S-1394) passes, U.S. citizens will no longer be able to petition for their siblings, adult children, or parents under 65 years old to immigrate to the United States legally. Immigrants who are in the backlog of eliminated family categories, no matter how many years they have been waiting, will not be allowed in. Families will be separated forever.

New requirements will require foreign professionals immigrating into the U.S. to speak English and to remain with the petitioning employer for two years. A chef for an Italian restaurant does not need to be able to speak English to do his job. A nanny who is sexually harassed by their employer would still have to remain with that employer for two years if S-1394 passes.

In the House of Representatives, Representative Lamar Smith is sponsoring a bill

(HR-2202) that threatens immigration in several ways. HR-2202 will require all hospitals to provide the identity and immigration status of a person in order to get federal reimbursement for emergency services for that person. This means that no one would get treated in an emergency room until they could provide proof that they are a U.S. citizen. This provision could have devastating results as undocumented persons will not go to hospitals for any reason for fear of deportation. When a certain segment of the population is not treated for communicable diseases (i.e. tuberculosis), these diseases will spread to all segments of the population. Diseases do not check immigration status before infecting someone.

HR-2202's most astonishing provision deals with asylum. Asylum is granted to someone when they can show that they fear returning to their home country because of past or future persecution based on race, religion, national origin, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. HR-2202 would require asylum applicants to submit a completed asylum application within 30 days of their arrival in the United States.

It is ludicrous to expect someone who has been tortured and who has seen family members and friends killed to have the presence of mind to apply for asylum immediately after arriving in the United States. Congress expects someone to overcome such a psychologically traumatic event, figure out the procedure for applying for asylum, fill out all the forms, and take them to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) within 30 days of arriving in the U.S. If HR-2202 becomes law, the United States will send politically and socially repressed individuals back to a country where they will face imprisonment, torture, and/or death. This will cause irreparable damage to America's commitment to human rights.

Currently, Senate bill S-1394 has passed out of the Senate Immigration Subcommittee and is now pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee. House bill HR-2202 has passed out of committee and is scheduled for debate before the full House of Representatives early this year.

Diane Feinstein, who still lives here in San Francisco, appears to favor all of the proposed immigration controls. She is especially dangerous as she is on the Senate Immigration Subcommittee and voted to pass S-1394. It seems Senator Feinstein has forgotten how diversity makes San Francisco one of the greatest cities in the world.

If you want to do something about the pending immigration reform bills, contact Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein and Representative Nancy Pelosi and tell them how you feel. If you contact their offices, tell the person you talk to that you want a written response and they will send you one.

If your ancestors were subject to the same immigration controls as are being proposed, you would most likely be in another country right now. Everyone deserves the freedoms and opportunities that Americans are privileged to have. Our place of birth is not something we can control and those of us lucky enough to be born in the United States should be thankful.

*Postscript: If you desire any more information on the pending immigration reform bills or have any questions about immigration law, contact Randall Caudle at The Law Office of Randall Caudle, 807 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94133, (415) 576-0214.*

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Around the Neighborhood With Gloria Allen

Kelso Gives Way to the Park Bench Cafe

On December 15, 1996, a Bernal Heights family opened the Park Bench Cafe at 3214 Folsom Street, across from Precita Park, (where the Kelso Cafe had been located). Jeffrey Germaine, Mary Ann Hoffman and their children Sean and Carolyn would walk from their Mullen Avenue home to stop by for coffee and treats. Having lived in Russian Hill, Cow Hollow and North Beach before moving to Mullen Avenue eleven years ago, they welcomed the warmth and friendliness a neighborhood coffee shop. So when the original owner, who wanted the shop to be run by community owner-managers, approached them about purchasing the business, their entrepreneurial spirit came alive and they decided to accept the opportunity. Exactly one month later on a dark, rainy evening I sat with this well-mannered but direct family drinking tea, tasting a wonderful nut pastry and chatting about life — both its serious and humorous sides — while on the background Sean played a jazz CD and cleaned the floors and tables for the next day's business.

Inside there was a warm glow from the mellow maple walls, the slate red and black floor of squares and triangles and the light blond tables and chairs. On the walls are photographs by Lynn Reynolds, who works at the cafe, and by some of her friends. There are also two works by Precita Eyes muralist Susan Cervantes. Other local artists are invited to see Jeffrey about exhibiting their work. The

atmosphere is clean, streamlined and relaxed, reflecting this family's desire to provide a friendly, warm place for residents of this diverse community to meet, read the papers and periodicals for which subscriptions have been ordered and to enjoy bagels, breads and pastries along with salads and gourmet sandwiches. Coffee beans are also available.

Both Jeffrey and Mary Ann come from backgrounds well-suited to operating a creative community cafe. Jeffrey was born in Rome where he lived until he was fourteen. He describes his mother as a passionate woman with a natural style who introduced him to music and art. Mary Ann grew up in multi-cultural Brooklyn. By their teens they had moved to the Long Island suburb where they met, but both found the environment dull and isolating. Jeffrey, who speaks Italian, studied English literature and history and later entered the wine and spirit business. Mary Ann became a nurse and works as a nursing supervisor at St. Francis Hospital.

It was delightful to be able to enjoy myself on that stormy evening surrounded by interesting conversation with good listeners in a gentle, creatively evolving atmosphere. As I stepped out into the cold air I was greeted by their two English Labradors patiently waiting for their walk through the park. There is already an aura developing at the PARK BENCH CAFE. Do yourself a favor and check it out.

Volunteers Needed to Deliver the New Bernal Journal

Although the NBJ is currently delivered to each doorstep in Bernal, some volunteers are doing more than their share. To save them from burnout, if any neighbors who live on the blocks listed below are interested in volunteering, please contact Mauricio Vela at the BHNC, 206-2140. *It's only a six time per year commitment and you can be part of a 33 year old Bernal tradition!*

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## PERSONAL

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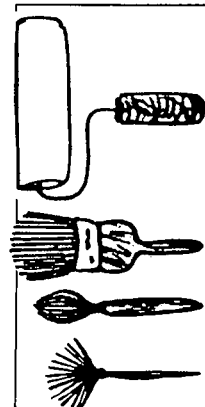
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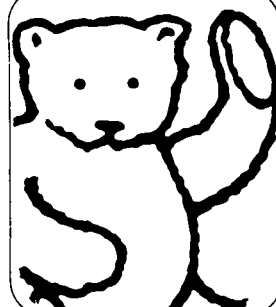
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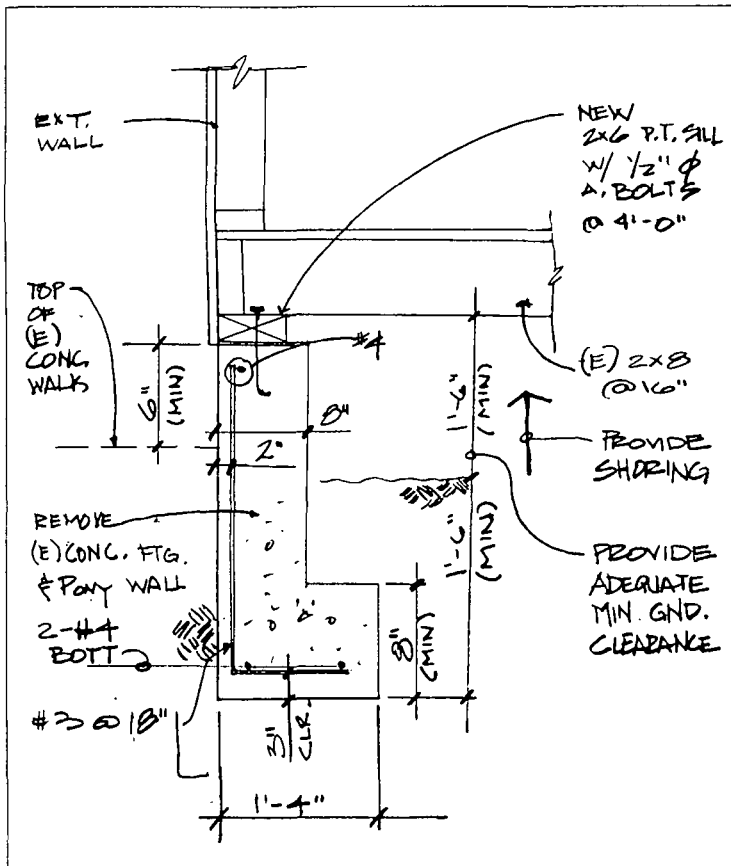
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# Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center News

## B.H.H.C. Offers a Sound Foundation for Your Home

by Chloe Chaudhry



A sample structural drawing of a footing replacement. Please note that each house presents its own special circumstances and would need drawings specifically tailored to these circumstances.

The foundation of Jose Suarez's home was an original, a 1905 special. While it had withstood several earthquakes in the past, it now would crumble away at a light touch. "[It] was deteriorated past the point of salvage," explained Mr. Suarez. "It had to be replaced. There was no other way around it. It detracted from the value of the house and it was seismically unsafe."

Bernal Heights Housing Corporation offers 3% loans for low income homeowners needing to make substantial repairs in their homes. The loans come through the Community Housing Rehabilitation Program (CHRP) sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Housing and administered in Bernal Heights by the Housing Corporation. Homeowners often include foundation work in the scope covered by the loan program because foundation work is both difficult and expensive. CHRP loan funds can also be used to hire a structural or geotechnical engineer if necessary, and the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation staff are available throughout the scope preparation and work performance process to serve as the owner's representative with the engineer and contractor.

Foundations are necessary to provide a stable base for a house and to keep it off the ground to protect the wood elements of a home from moisture damage. Mr. Suarez's foundation was representative of many foundations in Bernal Heights. More than sixty percent of Bernal homes were built before 1939. Older homes usually have footings made of brick or

poor concrete (see box for most common foundation problems), in contrast to newer foundations which usually have concrete footings with embedded steel reinforcing bars to provide additional strength and durability. A new foundation also has anchor bolts,

### MOST COMMON FOUNDATION PROBLEMS

- Deteriorating concrete or brick.
- A foundation low enough to allow water to seep in from the ground.
- The ground may be slipping away from underneath the house if on an incline.
- The retaining wall may be cracked, leaking water, or tilted.

connecting the house to the foundation in the case of an earthquake. Bernal Heights Housing Corporation's structural engineer consultant recommends against using concrete coatings, or "caps," applied to the surface of a cracked or eroded footing.

Jose Suarez would not have been able to afford his new foundation without the CHRP loan. "It costs too much money!" he explained. With the CHRP loan he was able to afford a completely new foundation, plus a new roof, limited kitchen and bath remodeling, and numerous other smaller ticket repairs. "I'm glad I did it," reflects Mr. Suarez. "Now my home will last for another hundred years, maybe more.... and I think with all the remodeling work the house looks, and is, several times better than it was before!"

The Bernal Heights Housing Corporation has worked with more than 100 Bernal homeowners to replace deteriorated foundations and to make other necessary home repairs. Qualified low-income homeowners are eligible to receive zero to 3% loans for necessary repairs and electrical, plumbing or seismic upgrades. For more information, please call Chloe Chaudhry or Ruthy Talansky at the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation (206-2151 or 206-2147).

## Thanks For Giving

A number of wonderful events occurred over the holiday season through the generous efforts of Neighborhood Center volunteers. On December 10, at the annual Holiday Family Fair, community members enjoyed Christmas songs with the Norman Wong Voice Club of City College and a piano recital by the youth of Patty Avery's music studio. Volunteers served hot, fluffy pancakes while guests gazed upon a table of lovely, handmade Christmas gifts and decorations made by our dedicated Bernal seniors. Santa and Mrs. Claus also made their annual visit to the delight of children ages 1 to 81.

On December 11, seniors enjoyed the special treat of a free shampoo, haircut and style from Isa's Salon on Cortland. Holiday portraits were made possible by Costco. Free afternoon tea and cookies were warmly served courtesy of Nicco's Cafe and Good Life Groceries.

While oodles of toys tumbled in from generous neighbors and Center supporters for the annual Toy Give Away, staff members serving our frail and homebound seniors prepared bountiful Christmas baskets for over 60 elders. Nearly 30 volunteers

made special holiday visits to deliver these baskets, sharing time, stories and creating a sense of connectedness so cherished during the holidays. We wish to

thank the young woman who provided 14 fully stocked gift baskets and all of the others who contributed personal, household, and gift items for this event.

This year a whopping 750 toys were given out to children who came on December 21st. Senior and teen volunteers had been wrapping for a week to create that magic moment of mystery. Santa and Mrs. Claus were there, as well as musicians and singers who helped to create a special atmosphere. After receiving a gift everyone was invited to the Bernal Heights Library for storytelling, a piñata, musical chairs, cookies and milk. A special thank you to all of you who have given gifts to a child that you don't know.

Thanks to the efforts of the gift makers, the pancake flip-

pers, the toy givers, the music makers and the bringers of joy, a good deal of cheer was spread amidst the whole Bernal Heights community. Thank you to all who were a part of our holiday programs.



Honorees Frank DeRosa and Lynn Mannix, on the stage.

## Precita Valley Neighbors hold 1st Annual Appreciation Evening

On Wednesday, January 24, Precita Valley neighbors held a function designed to honor those people who are, "concerned, helping and conscientious, in the Precita Valley community. The event was held at the St. Anthony's Church Office.

Honorees included:

Buck Bagot, Larry Bailey, Mel Baker, Eric Beckstrom, Corinne Cage, Don Casella, Susan Cervantes, Bob Cornwell, Frank DeRosa [pictured left], Jere Driscoll, Mike Dower, Demece Garepis, Louis Gill, Helen Helfer, Jeffrey Germaine, Sister JohnEllen, Rich Kovechar, Fred Kommer, Kathy Livy, Lynn Mannix [pictured left], Terry Milne, Mike Mitchell, Ray Pena, Gary Richmond, John Thomas, Michael Thomas, Terry Vail, Mauricio Vela, Fr. Michael Weldon, Joanne Wilson.

## Bernal Youth Speak Out

### Why is it important to celebrate Black History Month?

by Xochitl Vargas

Jenaa Holmes

Age: 16

School: Mission Annex

Grade: 10th.

"To gather with friends read about the history of black heroes. To find out more about my black ancestors. Celebrating Black History Month cheers me up. It makes me feel proud of being a black sister. And I can talk to my little nieces about our ancestors."

Jesse Ortega

Age: 16

School: Wallemberg

Grade: 11th

"Black history is important because it always remind us of how the people in the black community fought for their civil rights."

Charisse Alfaro

Age: 16

School: Wallemberg

Grade: 11th

"Black history month is about finding out about another ethnicity. It

is also a chance to find out about how [African Americans] were treated in this country. Black history month is not only important to the people of black background it should be important to everyone."

Angelica Gomez

Age: 16

School: Balboa High

Grade: 11th

"Because it gives us information about the important black people and their achievements. And we also learn about other races other than whites."

Charles Gibson

Age: 17

School: South East G.E.D. Program.

"Getting to know our ancestors. And the things that they did. I'd be pissed off if they didn't celebrate it. 'Cause they celebrate everything else — they don't speak up about black people, only white people."

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# Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center News

## Bernal Scores Big in the Rec. & Park Open Space Committee

By Demece Garepis and Mauricio Vela

On Tuesday, January 16th, ten Bernal neighbors from both sides of the hill attended the Open Space Committee hearing at McLaren Lodge to advocate for the Bernal playground and Precita Park as priorities for 1996/97 funding.

Precita Park neighbors had passionately testified the week before regarding the park's west end need for better landscaping, maintenance, gardening, and the building of a much needed walking path along the perimeter. Initial funding totally \$100,000 had been allocated and banked from the two previous fiscal years.

Bernal playground families had testified in August before the Rec. & Park Commission and in September before the committee regarding the dilapidated and dangerous conditions of the play structure. Initial funding of \$150,000 had been allocated the previous fiscal year. After hearing staff reports and considering previous public testimony, the committee agreed to recommend \$160,000 to complete the Precita Park west end and an additional \$150,000 for the renovation of the Bernal playground play structure. Final recommendations were made on Janu-



Bernal Playground under construction

ary 30th.

In 1993, Precita Park's east end, including a new play structure, was completed. Presently the Bernal playground gymnasium is under renovation — a project that started in 1986 — and should be completed in May. By the summer of

1997, Bernal Heights will have two beautiful renovated parks for our children, families, and community. We would like to thank members of the Open Space committee, the Precita Valley Committee and the BHNC's Bernal Playground committee.



Construction is coming to a close at Market Heights, sponsored by the Bernal Heights Housing corporation. Families are scheduled to move into their new homes in March, and a public open house celebration will be held in May.

## Power Plant Forum

by Demece Garepis

The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center is sponsoring a Power Plant forum concerning the building of a cogeneration facility in Hunter's Point. The forum will be held Tuesday, February 20th at 7pm at the Neighborhood Center at 515 Cortland Ave. Short and long range environmental effects, employment opportunities, long range energy conservation, and community health issues will be discussed. This information is critical for all concerned neighbors.

The forum will be held prior to the Port Commission's review — the matter will be reviewed for final approval by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Panel members include two speakers who support and two speakers who oppose the cogeneration facility. Panel members include technical experts and community leaders. Among them will be Rob Morgan from San Francisco Energy Company, Cal Broomhead from Committee for Better Waste Water Management, Dr. George Davis from the Hunter's Point Senior Center, and Claude Wilson from Southeast Alliance for Environmental Justice. The facilitator will Bernal neighbor Steve Shapiro.

## Wish List

### Senior Arts & Crafts:

- Lace, fabric ribbon, buttons, beads, old jewelry, fabric, baskets, stuffing, pillows, dried flowers.

### Volunteers Needed to:

- Solicit sponsors from corporate and local businesses for Seniors' Night Out dinner for frail elders.
- Repair broken glass on door (materials provided).
- Lead regular exercise activities for simple chair, stretching and standing routines for seniors.
- Singer/piano player to sing/lead Love Song Sing-a-long for Valentines Day Party, 2/14, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Please call Bernal Heights Senior Services, 206-2145 or stop by the Neighborhood Center at 515 Cortland Avenue. Thanks for caring!

## HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

For over seventeen years the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and Housing Corporation have been providing vital services to families of Bernal Heights:

*Our programs touch the lives of everyone who lives in Bernal Heights, but we need your help to maintain and expand our work.*



*Join the Neighborhood Center today!*



*Family membership dues just \$25.00 or... Participate in the Friends of Bernal Heights Campaign with a gift of \$100 or more.*

♥ Our daily **Senior Program** offers social services in Spanish and English, educational and social activities, and a warm meal shared with others to over 400 seniors a year.

♥ **Youth Employment Programs** offer job readiness, employment training, and placement to approximately 300 youth each year.

♥ The **Neighborhood Elder's Support Team** reaches out to over 100 frail and isolated elders a year — offering companionship, support services, transportation and minor home repairs to increase safety.

♥ Our **Gang Prevention Counseling Program** provides youth with healthy role models who help them to stay in school and engage in positive and empowering activities.

♥ **Community Organizing** efforts have kept the doors of our Library and Bank open, won a long struggle for a new play structure and gym in Bernal Park and produced community events, such as, **Fiesta on the Hill** and **Bernal Heights Community Congress**.

♥ The **New Bernal Journal** is our bi-monthly neighborhood newspaper which covers key issues, events and people of Bernal Heights — over 8,000 free copies are hand-delivered by neighborhood volunteers.

♥ The **Bernal Heights Housing Corporation** provides loans and rental housing to make sure that low-income Bernal residents and people with special needs have access to safe and decent affordable housing.

All Members and Friends will be acknowledged in the New Bernal Journal, and will receive our bi-monthly newsletter Memo to Members, which lists community events and program updates. Members & Friends are eligible to vote for the BHNC Board of Directors at the Annual Bernal Heights Community Congress on Sat. March 9th.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

( ) Regular \$15 ( ) Family \$25 ( ) Senior or Low income \$5  
( ) Youth \$1 ( ) Business \$50 ( ) Supporter \$50 ( ) **Friend \$100**

Neighborhood Center membership dues benefit all programs of the Neighborhood Center. Friends of Bernal Heights contributions benefit programs of the Neighborhood Center and Housing Corporation.

Please mail your contribution to:

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center/Housing Corporation  
515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110

**For more info on Membership or the Friends Campaign call:  
Jess Dugan, Fundraising Coordinator at 206-2156**

## Bernal Hilltop Natural History

### California Poppies made ours The Land of Fire

by Barbara M. Pitschel

It has been fifteen years since I have written about a very important plant, familiar to us all: our state flower, *Eschscholzia californica*, the California poppy.

Poppies are fairly common on Bernal Hill and throughout California, but distribution is sparse by comparison with the vast poppy fields seen by early mariners along our coast, who described "the land of fire" and "la sabinilla de San Pasqual" (the altercloth of St. Pascal, a Spanish shepherd who tended his flocks in fields of wildflowers). Earlier in our century, Bay Area poetess Ina Coolbrith drew elaborate similes between poppies, the gold in California's earth, and the sun in its sky.

The first botanist to attempt to classify our poppy was Archibald Menzies, a Scottish doctor/surgeon who was appointed as naturalist on Captain George Vancouver's expedition aboard the *Discovery*. Menzies' assignment was to study the vegetation, wildlife, and mineral resources of this area with an eye to assessing its suitability for settlement. Menzies collected his first poppy in 1792 and introduced it to England in 1794, but he classified it incorrectly as *Celandine*, an old world member of the same family (Papaveraceae). The seeds that Menzies brought to Kew Gardens did not survive.

It was not until 1816 that the plant was correctly described, classified, and named by Adelbert von Chamisso, a native Frenchman driven to Germany by the revolution. A romantic and intelligent young soldier/poet and an avid student of languages and the natural sciences, von Chamisso was appointed naturalist with the Russian scientific and trapping voyage of Kotzebue. He developed an intimate, inseparable friendship with the ship's surgeon, Dr. Johann Frederich Eschscholtz, an entomologist and naturalist as well as a physician. When Chamisso collected the poppy on the San Francisco sand dunes, he named it for his friend.

Scottish botanist and gardener David Douglas, who made visits to the Pacific Coast between 1825 and 1833, sent a collection of *Eschscholzia* to the London Horticultural Society, where the species was successfully cultivated.

Spanish names for the poppy have included "amapola," "torosa," "copa de oro" (cup of gold), and "dormidera" (sleepy one). The latter name refers either

to the plant's mildly soporific juice or to its habit of closing at night and during wet or cloudy weather.

Native Californians put the poppy to many practical uses. They boiled or roasted the leaves as a vegetable and used the watery juice as a pain killer. The Spanish mixed the juice with pine gum as a toothache remedy, and with suet or olive oil (and perfume) as a hair tonic.

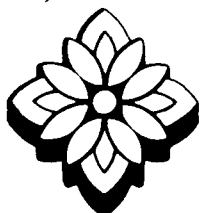
The plant's method of seed dispersal is fascinating. After pollination (usually by beetles, flies, or other insects), the petals, which are no longer needed as an attractant, are shed. The one-celled, two-valved seed capsule elongates to a length of two or three inches. This capsule is held at the base by the



viscous action of a two-ring receptacle (torus). When the seeds are ripe, the mature capsule is released, permitting the two valves to separate and the capsule to open and dehisce. There is considerable energy in this process, and the capsule frequently opens in flight, effectively disseminating seeds. Although the word "poppy" is actually derived from the Greek word for milk, I like to associate it with this popping seed dispersal.

This species exhibits considerable variability, including annuals and perennials, and encompassing everything from the fire-orange poppy fields of southern California to the yellow and pale orange coastal form. Petal color variations also occur, and a white form can occasionally be seen on Bernal. The wide distribution of the species indicates the diversity of adaptations to local conditions within populations. We need to be very careful not to plant poppy seeds unless we know where they originated. genetic strains from other parts of the state and adapted to different growing conditions could interbreed with our locally-adapted strains, thereby weakening our plants' ability to thrive.

**Join the Bernal Hilltop Native Grassland Restoration Project work parties on the third Sunday of each month and enjoy the poppies and other native wildflowers and grasses that grow in profusion on our hill. For details, call me at 282-5066.**



## Seniors! Let's Talk...



### About Eviction and Home Equity Scams

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Tuesdays in February, 11:30 a.m.**

#### Feb. 6: "The Eviction Process"

Learn about this process and what resources are available to you.

*Speakers: The Salvation Army/Sheriff's Eviction Assistance Program (EASE)*

#### • Feb. 13: "Affordable Alternatives to Home Equity Loans"

Learn about affordable options through HUD and other sources for repairs and maintenance instead of home equity loans.

*Speakers: Bernal Heights Housing Corporation*

#### • Feb. 20: "Home Equity Scams & Identifying Reputable Lenders"

Learn ways to identify and avoid home equity scams where someone may be trying to steal your home. *Speakers: S.F. Bar Association*

#### • Feb. 27: "Managing your Cash"

Learn about budget and cash management assistance to avoid eviction of foreclosure. See what community services are available if a default occurs. *Speakers: Consumer Credit Counseling Service*

*Co-Hosted by the Salvation Army/Sheriff's Eviction Assistance Program (EASE)  
and Consumer Credit Counseling Service*

*Funded by San Francisco Foundation's Bank of America Consumer Education Fund*

**For More information call: EASE at 597-7734 or  
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*Refreshments Served • Spanish translation available upon request.*

**Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center**  
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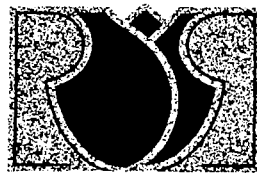
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# POWER OF THE PRESS

A REGULAR COLUMN IN WHICH THE EDITOR ABUSES  
THE PRIVILEGES OF HIS POSITION FOR THE  
AMUSEMENT OF THE READERS.

by Gareth Barkin

How would you like your city to get a landmark attraction worthy of international attention — one sure to become an integral part of the city's image and character? Well if you live in this city, you probably have your fill of those already. Who needs another big red bridge, or pointy-topped sky scraper? Who rides those damn cable cars anyway, and haven't we all had just about enough sour dough bread? More importantly, when was the last time you enjoyed, to any genuine degree, any of these San Francisco landmarks? They're not for us, folks, they're for them. And so it would be with a brand new ballpark.

I'm sorry to report that I haven't really taken advantage of any editorial power for this issue's column, but instead plan to blather on about the ballpark proposal, and, in the end, decide that I don't possess the faculties required to write printable opinion. But write I will, because my original plan for this column — to break into the microwave tower on top of the Hill to try to heat a pot-pie — ended in unmitigated failure. You see I wasn't actually going to break in; I had an inside man. His keys got that gate open, and a herd of dogs promptly appeared from nowhere, burst in, and began doing their business. We advanced to the small 'Foto-Mat'-like booth which is rumored to provide the tower with 24-hour security. Inside was a small, startled man who seemed unaccustomed people on his side of the gate. From the expression on his face, my inside man was convinced that we had surprised him during a very private moment. But considering his modest quarters, and without even any strangers' photos to pass the time, one could hardly blame the poor fellow for taking matters into his own hands.

At any rate, the security door refused to yield, despite some theatrical lock-picking with two bricks and a Gold Card. Defeated, we tried to leave, but I was engaged by an angry resident who believed emphatically that I was an agent of AT&T, and held me responsible for the removal of several nearby trees. I played along for a little while, relishing the drama of the role, but soon began to fear for my life, and fled.

So back to this whole ballpark notion, a few weeks ago, it seems I found myself at a meeting of the editors of all the neighborhood newspapers in town. Quite a motley assortment, let me tell you, and if I didn't think they'd find out about it, I would have written this entire column about them. And it would have been a lot funnier than this one is — which may not be saying a great deal, but then again maybe you should try writing one of these babies and then we'll talk.

But back to this neighborhood newspaper meeting, I'm not halfway done chewing

through my plate of Marriott scrambled eggs, when in walk the Giant's top management guys (they were all guys) with a room full of quality visual aids. These men has psyched themselves into a stadium-hyping frenzy, and it was all I could do just to stay out of their way. One editor wasn't so lucky, asking them a question about parking. She was soundly lambasted by a tag-team of executives who made no excuses for spitting while they talked. "We have identified well over 6,000 parking spaces already in existence around the proposed stadium site," they assured us. I dared not bring up the fact that these spaces were, for the most part, already occupied.

Most of the time, however, they tried to dazzle us with their large visual aids. We were shown artist's renderings (the artist was not identified) of the stadium from several angles, and a number of blown-up photographs of other stadiums in different cities. Indeed the best thing that can be said about the new stadium design is the architect's attempt to match it to the surrounding buildings — abandoned warehouses. If he matched it well enough, I supposed, people wouldn't be able to find the stadium at all, thereby nipping that whole traffic congestion concern right in the bud. They had thought of that possibility as well, and consequently added a modern extension on the east side. This east wing at once solved the identification problem, and added fuel to the sporting community's love affair with mirrored glass. If it works in a pair of florescent sunglasses, why not try it on a four-story building?

I approached the architect (who was there) on this point, and he conceded almost immediately that the mirrored glass area was a concession to those jittery investors who thought that brick facades made the stadium look like an arc-welding facility. And although he offered that he might get rid of it, on my recommendation, I couldn't shake the vague feeling that I was being patronized.

So at this point you're probably thinking one of two things: 1.) This guy don't know diddly about baseball, and that's why he's focusing on architectural irrelevancies. Or 2.) He's drunk. Well I'm pleased to say that you're both right. And yet, I still have a point to make, so here it comes (this will tie-in nicely with the beginning, too, giving the erroneous impression that this whole column makes sense):

The ballpark itself would be quite a nice thing — thoughtful design, waterfront setting, proposed ferry access, etc. It would become another SF landmark and tourist attraction. It would be good for business. And, on the other hand, it will be bad for traffic and terrible for parking in the area. The real question is: Do you like baseball? Some of us do, surely, but I think most of the people who are going to be charmed by this thing are going to be from out of town. Only 20% of current Giants attendance is from the city. They think it'll go up. I don't think so. I think they'll be lining up from Daily City to San Jose, from Martinez to Concord — this stadium will be for the people who think of San Francisco as the mythical land of cable cars and Rice-a-Roni. And let me tell you something else: Those people drive cars.

But in the end it's hard to turn down another landmark, and who wouldn't mind walking to a game now and then, if you could. I guess what I'm trying to say is that, unlike most editors writing editorials, I really don't have an opinion. Like many of us, I have a mild attraction to baseball, but I also stand to suffer as much as anyone from the increased traffic congestion, which is already intolerable. Then again, if I have to choose between the greatness of this fair city, and my own personal commuting anguish, there's just two words that come to mind: Play Ball!

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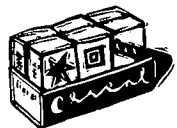
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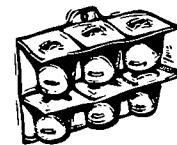


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VS.



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Cardboard Carton

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VS.



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Container

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VS.



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VS.



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## Monday

### Cortland Merchants Association Meeting

All Bernal Heights Merchants are invited to participate at the Cortland Merchants Association monthly meetings. February 5 at 6:30 PM at the Hungarian Sausage Factory, March 11 at 6:30 PM (location to be determined.) Call David Rogers at 826-5089 for more information.

## Tuesday

### Spanish Conversation Social

Meets on Tuesday February 6 at 7 PM at Cafe Quetzal and March 5 at 7 PM at Fina Estampa. Practice your Spanish conversation skills over some hot cuisine. Call Valentin at the Bernal Heights Library for more details, 695-5160.

### Spanish Film - La Belle Epoque

The Spanish language film "La Belle Epoque" will be shown in Spanish with English subtitles on Tuesday February 20 at 6:30 PM. Free. At the Bernal Heights Library.

### Spanish Film - Man Facing South-East

The film "Man Facing South-East" will be shown in Spanish with English subtitles on Tuesday March 19 at 6:30 PM. Free. At the Bernal Heights Library.

### Jazz Guitar

Alex Candelaria plays every Tuesday evening at The Hungarian Sausage Factory, 419 Cortland. 648-2847.

## Wednesday

### Spanish Conversation

Ongoing Spanish Conversation program, every other Wednesday at 7 PM, February 14 & 28, March 13 & 27. All levels of Spanish speakers. New members always welcome. At the Bernal Heights Library.

### Hungarian Gypsy Violinist

Every Wednesday night Tibor Horvath & Lena, Gypsy Violinist and Piano accompanist, at The Hungarian Sausage

Factory.

### Bingo

Every Wednesday Bingo at St. Kevin's. Games include Safari, Criss-cross, Good neighbor. Doors open at 6 PM. First game at 7:30 PM at Old Hall. (Entrance on Ellsworth between Jarboe and Cortland.) Saint Kevin's Parish, 704 Cortland, 648-5751.

### The Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting

Bebop Revival Jam Session. Musical Homage to Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis & All the Other Funky Ones. Free at the Deli Pub, 301 Cortland, 285-1631.

## Thursday

### Champagne Book Launch

February 22 there will be a Champagne Reception - Book Launch for Bernal Heights author Mary Wings new mystery "She Came By the Book." At Bernal Books.

### Book Club

The Bernal Library adult reading group meets monthly to discuss a new book. February 29 at 4 PM the group meets to discuss "Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter" by Mario Vargas Llosa. March 28 at 4 PM it will be Zora Neale Hurston's "Their Eyes Were Watching God." New members are always welcome! At the Bernal Heights Library.

### Jazz Piano

Randy Craig, jazz pianist and composer, plays every Thursday evening at The Hungarian Sausage Factory.

### Deli Jazz

Every Thursday night at 7 to 10 PM Michael Gold on Saxophone, Paul Mindrup on Piano and Lee Alexander on Bass jam for you. The Deli Pub.

## Friday

### Black History Month Celebration

Friday, February 16 at 5:30 PM, the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center at 515 Cortland Ave. will host a special evening of presentations & performance, featuring musician James Henry, rap group Hoopla, the Mayor's Youth Forum and more. For details, call 206-2140.

### Pen to Paper

Friday February 23 at 7:30 PM. Members of Margo Perin's writing class will read from their work. At Bernal Books, 401 Cortland.

### Open Reading

Friday March 1 at 7 PM Bernal Books will have a first ever Open Reading. Call Rachel to pre-register to read. At Bernal Books, 401 Cortland, 550-0293.

### Flamenco Guitar

Gyorgy Vass plays Classical and Flamenco Guitar every Friday night at The Hungarian Sausage Factory.

## Saturday

### Reading

Saturday March 9 at 7 PM author Bernard Kaufman reads at Bernal Books.

### Tanchaz

Last Saturday evening of every month, come dance to a live Hungarian folk band. February 25 and March 30, at The Hungarian Sausage Factory.

### Tax Help

On Saturday afternoons in March from 4 to 6 PM there will be free tax preparation help at the Bernal Heights Library. March 9, 16, 23 and 30.

### Jazz piano

Zsolt Szima plays Jazz Piano every Saturday night at the Hungarian Sausage Factory.

## Sunday

### St. Patrick's Day Bash

Come to the Wild Side West for some traditional St. Patrick's day fun. Food and more. March 17. The Wild Side West, 424 Cortland, 647-3099.

### Hungarian Folk Music

Every Sunday night the Hungarian folk band Forgatos plays at dinner time at the Hungarian Sausage Factory.

## Events for Families, Kids and Teens

### Monday

#### SKY

St. Kevin's Youth Program. SKY meets every Monday at 7 PM. Meet at Old Hall (entrance on Ellsworth between Jarboe and Cortland.) Saint Kevin's Parish, 704 Cortland, 648-5751.

### Tuesday

#### Children's Videos

Every Tuesday morning at 10:30 AM the Library shows videos for kids ages 3 through 7. At the Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland, 695-5160.

### The Reptile Club

Meets Tuesdays at 4 PM at the Bernal Heights Library.

### Homework Center

Every Tuesday evening 5-8 PM. Homework help available for school kids of all ages. Starting in December Homework help will also be available on Wednesday evenings. At the Bernal Heights Library.

### Wednesday

#### Chinese Lion Dancers

Wednesday February 3 at 5 PM there will be Chinese Lion Dancers at the Bernal Heights Library welcoming the Chinese New Year.

### Story-telling

Celebrating Black History Month. Story-teller Midget will be at the Bernal Heights Library on Wednesday February 7 at 7:30 PM. All ages welcome.

### Family Night

Every Wednesday at 7:30 PM is Family Night at the Library. Story hour, films, crafts, and entertainment for the whole family. At the Bernal Heights Library.

### Children's Story-Time at Bernal Books

Wednesday February 7, February 21, March 6, March 20 at 11 AM, Bernal Books hosts children's story-time with Sophie, featuring stories and songs. At Bernal Books, 401 Cortland, 550-0293.

### Thursday

#### Children's Story Hour

Ongoing program every Thursday at 10:30 AM. Thirty minutes of reading for pre-schoolers. At the Bernal Heights Library.

### Friday

#### Chess Club

Every Friday at 4 PM. Chess Club at the Library. Girls especially encouraged. Adults also welcome to come teach and play. At the Bernal Heights Library.

### Club Magic

Meet every Friday at 4 PM at the Library. Cards, games and stories, similar to Dungeons and Dragons. For teens at the Bernal Heights Library.

*Bernal Heights groups, merchants, schools, block clubs and non-profits are invited to submit their special events and meeting announcements to the Bernal calendar. Please submit your announcements to New Bernal Journal, 515 Cortland Avenue, SF, CA 94110 or call Kristin Hofso at Brown Bear Realty: (415) 285-5700.*

# How Would You Like To Get PUBLISHED in the New Bernal Journal?

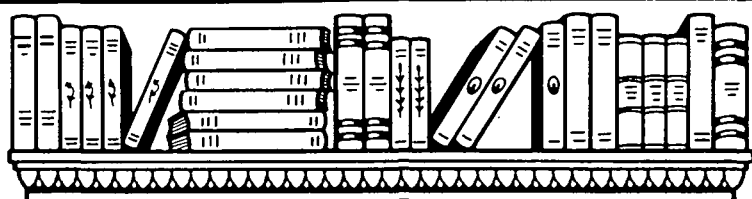
We are looking for volunteers to help us improve your neighborhood paper, and to make it more reflective of the community. Gain valuable experience in the field of journalism, while you help out your local periodical. Aspiring writers, journalists, poets, and other artists are encouraged to contact us.

Also, we are looking for suggestions and feedback from the community. What things do you like about the New Bernal Journal? What don't you like? What would you like to see?

### To get involved, call:

Gareth Barkin / Editor  
New Bernal Journal  
(415) 206-2144  
515 Cortland Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94110

We look forward to hearing from you!

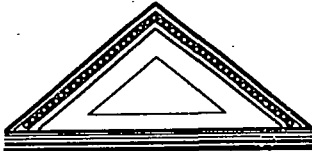


## Environmental Tips

### 1995 Recycling highlights:

by David Assmann

- The seventh annual phone book recycling campaign, which resulted in the collection of more than 2.2 million pounds of telephone books.
- The designation of San Francisco as a Recycling Market Development Zone by the state of California.
- The addition of all #1 and #2 plastic bottles and aluminum foil as recyclable items for curbside and apartment recycling.
- Receiving the California Resource Recovery Association (CRRRA) award for best public education program in the state of California.
- Recycling more than 55,000 Christmas trees in our annual tree recycling campaign.
- Awarding \$350,000 in grants to 14 non-profit groups for innovative waste prevention and recycling projects through a new grants program.



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# Ask Dr. Nabler

a licensed therapist

Advice for Relationships on the Hill

Dear Dr. Nabler,

I am a lesbian woman involved in a relationship with my housemate. Since I've known her she has claimed to be completely gay herself, but lately she has started seeing a man. At first it just seemed to be a friend, but now they have slept together on several occasions. Our relationship was supposed to be casual, a relationship of convenience, but I feel very resentful of her. It's not just because she's seeing someone else, but because she lied to me when she said she was gay.

I have expressed these feelings to her, and she says that I'm trying to inhibit her sexual development. Still, to me there's something strange about sleeping with a woman who's also sleeping with a man. It doesn't feel good to me, but she is so beautiful that I do it anyway. Do you think my problem is that I'm having these feelings, or that I'm staying in this difficult relationship? I don't want to stand in my lover's way, but I have to be true to myself at the same time.

—Bemused in Bernal

Dear Bemused,

It sounds as though you and your roommate have different ideas about the nature and meaning of your relationship. How did you come to define it as one of convenience that was, "supposed to be casual?" Was that something you both talked about and agreed upon? If you were roommates before you became lovers it may be that while you now feel emotionally committed to her, she may feel that she has not committed herself and that she should be free to have other relationships.

It is understandable that you feel betrayed at her having told you she was a lesbian and then having a sexual relationship with a man. There may be a number of reasons why she told you that; she could have believed it to be true at the time, she may have thought it would please you or that being a lesbian would make it possible to share an apartment with you when you may have been reluctant to have a hetro / bisexual roommate. She may just be plain confused about her sexual identity.

I don't know if her sleeping with a man is any worse for you than if she had taken a lesbian lover. Either way she's saying she's not committed. It does mean that unless you, she, her male lover, and any other lovers he has are not practicing safe sex, that you are putting yourself in danger of getting AIDS.

You have to think about what you want. If you want an exclusive relationship and find the current arrangement intolerable you must let her know. Find out from her what she wants and decide whether the ideas you both have about your relationship are compatible. I wouldn't worry about what she said in the past, as much as I would about her actions in the present. Good luck.

To bathe in Dr. Nabler's infinite wisdom, address your letter to: Dr. Nabler: c/o New Bernal Journal, 515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110

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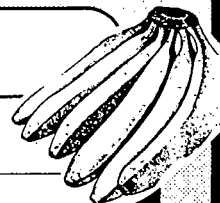
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